



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/515,724	02/29/2000	Geoffrey H. Gill	03188-P0001A	1108

7590

06/30/2006

Gene S Winter
St. Onge Steward Johnston & Reens LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905-5619

EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/515,724	GILL ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Debra F. Charles	3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This is in response to the Board of Appeals decision rendered on
1/24/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35
U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in
this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed
publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being
anticipated by Gould et al.(US 2001/0001856A1).

Re claims 1 and 9: Gould et al. disclose a system for anonymously
purchasing goods and services over the Internet comprising:

a communications system(para 0018, Fig. 1);

a customer computer linked to said communications system(para 0018,
Fig. 1);

an issuer computer linked to said communications system(para 0018, Fig.
1);

a merchant computer linked to said communications system(para 0018,0026, Fig. 1);

a financial institution computer linked to said communications system(para 0028);

a money code, said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer(para 0026, fig. 1, 2);

software executing on said issuer computer for receiving said money code and a money amount from a customer, assigning an associated money value to said money code based on said money amount received from the customer, and transmitting said money code and associated money value to said financial institution computer over said communications system(para 0026-0031, fig. 1-2);

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and associated money value transmitted by said issuer computer and storing said money code and associated money value(para 0026-0031, fig. 1-2);

software executing on said customer computer for transmitting an

order and said money code to said merchant computer over said communications system(para 0026-0031, fig. 1-2);

software executing on said merchant computer for receiving said order and money code from said customer computer, determining a money amount due for said order, and transferring said money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system(para 0026-0033, fig. 1-2), and,

software executing on said financial institution computer for receiving said money code and money amount due from said merchant computer, comparing said money amount due to said associated money value, and notifying said merchant computer of fund availability(para 0026-0037, fig. 1-2).

In this situation, the examiner understands the “money code” of the invention to be the same as the cash-equivalent card in the Gould et al. reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2,3,4,5,6,7,10,11,12,13,14,15 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gould et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Linehan(6327578B1) and Wong et al.(5913203A).

Re claims 2, 10 and 17: Gould et al. does not disclose customer computer for generating said money code, and inputting said money code and associated money value into said issuer computer; transmitting said money code and associated money value from said issuer computer to a financial institution computer over a communications system; transmitting an order and said money code from a customer computer to said merchant computer over said communication system; verifying fund availability by comparing said money amount due to said associated money value on said financial institution computer. Linehan disclose customer computer for

generating said money code (col. 4, lines 15-25, i.e. "consumer's computer then sends over the internet network some consumer identity and authentication information" and col. 5, lines 50-67, i.e. "step of sending from a consumer's computer a start message"),

assigning an associated money value to a money code corresponding to a money amount surrendered to an issuer by a customer (Table 1 in col. 11, col. 13, lines 60-67 and col. 14, lines 1-15, claim 1, i.e. "issuing bank creating a reference number or value representing the consumer's credit or debit card number"),

inputting said money code and associated money value into said issuer computer (col. 4, lines 10-20, "initiation message includes payment amount");

transmitting said money code and associated money value from said issuer computer to a financial institution computer over a communications system(col. 6, lines 50-65, i.e. "sending a settlement message"),

transmitting an order and said money code from a customer computer to said merchant computer over said communication system(col. 4, lines 10-20, i.e. "sending from a customer's computer a start message over an internet network to a merchant's computer"),

transmitting said money code and a money amount due from said merchant computer to said financial institution computer over said communications system(col. 6, lines 50-65, i.e. "sending a settlement message"),

verifying fund availability by comparing said money amount due to said associated money value on said financial institution computer(col. 6, lines

10-16, i.e. "verifies that the consumer's account is active and has sufficient funds").

Gould et al. and Linehan does not explicitly disclose(s) that storing said money code on a storage device or said money code containing no identification data related to a customer and being untraceable to said customer. However, in col. 6, lines 45-60, col. 7, lines 55-63 thereof, Wong et al. disclose(s) the user selects the level of anonymity and traceability desired and that once the pseudo cash unit is generated, a record generation means generates an active record associated with the pseudo cash unit and the fixed monetary value and stores the active record in records storage medium, which is preferably some type of electronic data storage device. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Gould et al. and Linehan based on the teachings of Wong et al. The motivation to combine these references is to enable the selection of anonymous, untraceable transaction to conduct transactions anonymously ensuring the consumer's identity remains confidential, and to use a storage device to store codes to ensure codes are available when needed.

Re claims 3 and 11: Linehan disclose generating a personal identification code to be associated with said money code for controlling access and use of said money code(col. 2, lines 45-50, i.e. "password", col. 4, lines 15-25, i.e. "consumer identity and authentication information" and col. 7, lines 55-67, "the user's identification and authentication information and the merchant's initiation message" and claim 1, i.e. "consumer identity and authentication information").

Re claims 7 and 15: Linehan disclose communications system comprises the Internet(col. 5, lines 55-60).

Re claims 8 and 16: Linehan disclose merchant computer for operating and maintaining an Internet website, accessible by the customer, for facilitating commercial transactions between the customer and a merchant(col. 2, lines 40-45, i.e. "Web server").

Re claims 4 and 12: Linehan does not explicitly disclose(s) that encrypting said money code. However, in col. 2, lines 35-67 thereof, Wong et al. disclose(s) that the "Digicash" or "ecash" system turns a user's or buyer's hard drive on a PC into a purse. To use this system, one first establishes an account with a bank. To obtain digicash or ecash, the user creates a series of numbers that will represent a mixture of coins or money bills in various denominations according to the user's own wishes. This request for digicash is then sent to the bank, which deducts the total amount requested from the user's existing valid account. The bank then sends the user an equivalent amount of ecash as an encrypted email message containing a series of numbers. Each number corresponds to a specified amount of money. Thus, it would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art to encrypt a code to ensure anonymity in the transaction.

Re claims 5 and 13: Linehan disclose customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer, retrieving said money code from said storage device(col. 4, lines 10-25, i.e. "consumer's computer starts message from digital wallet" and lines 30-35, col. 7, lines 55-67, i.e. "the merchant sends to the customer computer, the

wallet initiation message” and “then in step 306, the consumer’s wallet is started”), and said money code based on said personal identification code prior to transmitting said money code to said merchant computer(col. 5, lines 55-60, i.e. “sending from a consumer’s computer a start message over an internet network to a merchant’s computer”).

Linehan does not explicitly disclose decrypting an item after it reaches its destination. However, this is well-known in the computer art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ decryption to unencrypt a code or message when it reaches the merchant to get the benefit of encryption in transit to preserve the anonymity of data in transit.

Re claims 6 and 14: Linehan disclose merchant computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer upon receipt of said order and money code(col. 5, lines 55-67, i.e. “the merchant’s computer replies to consumer’s computer”, and col. 6, lines 45-67, i.e. “once the merchant has received the authorization token from the issuer”);

customer computer for requesting said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code to said merchant computer(claim 1,i.e."sending from the consumer's computer consumer identity and authentication information");

said merchant computer for receiving said personal identification code from the customer and transmitting said personal identification code in addition to the money code and money amount due to said financial institution computer over said communications system(col. 4, lines 10-25, i.e.

"merchant sends a message, including reference value to acquirer gateway operating on behalf of an acquirer bank" and col. 6, lines 45-67, i.e. "once the merchant has received the authorization token from the issuer gateway, the merchant completes the sales transaction"); and,

said financial institution computer for receiving said money code, money amount due, and personal identification code and decrypting said money code using said personal identification code prior to determining fund availability(col. 6, lines 45-67, i.e. "once the merchant has received the authorization token from the issuer gateway, the merchant completes the sales transaction", and col.6, lines 5-20, i.e. "verifies customer account is

active and has sufficient funds and/or credit to support the payment amount.”).

Linehan does not explicitly disclose that software executing on various computers. However, Linehan does indicate browser in col. 1, lines 43-46 and since computers can not operate without software, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ software applications on a computer to get the benefit of the four-party communications payment system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (571) 272 6791. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent A. Millin can be reached on (571) 272 6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Debra F. Charles
Examiner
Art Unit 3624



VINCENT MILLIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600